

The recent petition by BellSouth to limit FCC regulation and oversight of broadband is a blow to independent service providers and would severely limit what little competition remains for access to the internet and other services. I am concerned that, without continuing FCC oversight, the marketplace would be reduced to a single giant telecommunications firm and a single cable operator in each area. As a subscriber to DSL via an independent ISP (Sonic.net) I fear that this wonderful small company would be shut out and that I would be forced to contract only with SBC, limiting choice and allowing unfettered pricing increases, harming me as a consumer.

The request by BellSouth is an attack on the only 10% or so of the market that the giant companies do not already control. It is anti-competitive and unfair. I urge the FCC to reject BellSouth's proposal